

very pleased that President Clinton last night vetoed the continuing resolution because it avoided a major increase in Medicare premiums for the Nation's elderly.

However, this is not only an issue with regard to Medicare and health care concerns for the elderly. It is also important that the President stand fast because the budget that we will probably be considering within the next couple of days also makes major cuts in education, particularly with regard to student loans for young people. It is also important because of the appropriations bills and the less money that the Republican leadership intends to spend on the environment.

In my district, the environment is the same as the economy. We need a quality environment in order to improve our lives and in order to make it possible for future generations to enjoy a quality environment.

The fact of the matter is, by vetoing the legislation last night, the President is sending the message that he wants to protect seniors and their health care, he wants to protect education programs, and understands the importance of education, and also understands the importance of a quality environment.

CONGRESS' SPENDING SPREE A BURDEN TO OUR CHILDREN

(Ms. DUNN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Madam Speaker, the introduction by the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BURR] of his father a moment ago was a great change from the rhetoric we have heard during the last few years.

Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to address my colleagues from my perspective as a mother. First, I know what it is like to raise two little boys into grown men and I know what it is like to dream about their futures.

Unfortunately, the burden this Congress has put on these children for the last few decades has been a spending spree that has undermined their futures. Past Congresses have burdened each child born this year with a bill of \$187,000, just to pay interest through their lifetime on the national debt. That is why we must move aggressively toward a balanced budget.

As a mother I am concerned that we do the right things to preserve and protect Medicare for my sons, not to mention my parents. That is why we must take the steps necessary to save Medicare from going into certain bankruptcy.

Madam Speaker, as the front page of the Washington Post says today, the real fight is over balancing the budget. I am committed to it, we are committed to it. It is the right thing to do.

ANGST IN OUR INSTITUTION

(Mr. PETERSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, these are trying times in the House of Representatives and in the Senate and in the Nation; very partisan times.

Today I, along with my colleague from Florida, Mr. JOHNSTON, were going to enter a privileged resolution dealing with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of this House, which is the police station of ethics for this institution.

Madam Speaker, for over 14 months they have had complaints involving the Speaker of this House and have not reported back to their employer, the House of Representatives. However, because of the angst that exists within this institution today, we are not going to pursue the privileged resolution.

We will encourage the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to continue their work. We would like very much for them to report to us, but we will withhold until a more quiet time in this institution.

PRESIDENT IS AGAINST BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, yesterday the President decided he had two reasons why he vetoed the debt limit bill. Let us look at what he said. He said the bill tied the hands of the Treasury Secretary to avoid a default.

Madam Speaker, do we know what that means? We were trying to stop the Secretary from stealing from the Social Security trust fund and now, because the President did not sign that, he can do that.

Second, he stated the bill obligates the President and the Congress to pass a plan which cuts Medicare and education and increases taxes. Well, let me just say to my colleagues, we are trying to save Medicare, increase Medicare spending, reform welfare, and reduce America's tax burden and shrink the size and scope of the Federal Government.

It is obvious what the President really is against is balancing the budget. He wants to spend more money, create more bureaucracies and pile more debt on our kids. It is unfortunate that shutting down the Government is the only way to stop him.

OUR SHIP OF GOVERNMENT IS SINKING

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, we all know the ship of Government is stuck. It has hit a reef and it cannot move.

But do not worry—NEWT GINGRICH and the Republicans have a solution—a simple way to get our ship of Government moving again.

Just throw some people overboard.

Start with the elderly.

Toss some students.

Then abandon America's veterans.

The Republican plan? Cut some Medicare payments, threaten student loans, and lower VA benefits, and we'll get this ship moving again.

Well, thankfully for the millions of Americans who work hard every day and expect a fair deal from their Government, our President has said no.

He believes the ship of Government moves much better when we bring everyone along—the elderly, our children, our veterans.

The Democratic Party believes that we are all better, and stronger—more American—when we solve our problems together, move forward as one people, and leave no one behind.

This Republican posturing about the continuing resolution is no more than a ransom note. Throw some people over—or we'll sink the ship.

Mr. President—stand firm. Do not let the ship sail by abandoning our people.

SOLUTION NEEDED FOR IMPASSE

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, we need a solution to this impasse. I do not believe that a solution is unrestricted borrowing and spending. That is what we have been doing for the last 25 years. However, I believe part of the solution is taking off the table at this time specifics towards reaching a balanced budget.

I suggest, and I encourage, the Congress of the United States to pass a continuing resolution today that will keep the Government going with only one condition, and that is that the President and the Congress agree on reaching a balanced budget as a common goal. That will mean agreeing to reach a goal through the same method in 7 years using Congressional Budget Office figures.

The President of the United States has previously agreed with both of those conditions. He suggested during his campaign that the budget could be balanced in 5 years. Further, he stood in this Chamber and lectured the Congress on the fact that he thought the Congressional Budget Office had the best and most accurate figures in projecting the government budget. Therefore, we should say that the one condition is a common goal of balancing the budget.